



Step One Develop a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan

Participants must enroll in a planning process at their NRCS field office to prepare a wildlife habitat conservation plan. The plan describes the landowner's goals for improving wildlife habitat, includes a list of practices and a schedule for installing them, and details the steps necessary to maintain the habitat for the life of the agreement.

Planning assistance is on a first come, first served basis with priority given to deferred applications.

Step Two Apply for Cost-Share Assistance

NRCS can assist landowners with up to 75 percent cost-sharing to establish wildlife habitat practices. Federal or state wildlife agencies or private organizations may provide additional funding or expertise to help complete a project. Cost-share agreements last for three to ten years from the date the contract is signed. The landowner agrees to maintain the cost-shared practices and allow NRCS access to monitor the effectiveness of the practices over the course of the contract period.

Alaska Priorities

The 2005 WHIP Priorities all have equal status and are:

- Restoration and/or enhancement of stream habitat, waterbodies and riparian ecology for anadromous and endemic non-anadromous fish.
- Reduction of habitat fragmentation and/or restoration or enhancement of missing/degraded habitats for identified species of concern (to include relocation of trails to enhance/protect native fish and wildlife habitat).
- Shallow water area restoration, enhancement or creation for wetland waterfowl and wildlife.

In addition, priority will be given to applications that provide for the rehabilitation of critical wildlife habitat primarily used for subsistence purposes that have been affected by natural disasters such as the 2004 Alaska wildfires.



What Land is Eligible?

There is no minimum contract size and any privately owned land is eligible including:

- Lands under private ownership;
- Lands owned by non-government organizations;
- Tribal and Native corporation lands;
- Lands owned by state, local or municipal governments.

Land not eligible for other habitat restoration programs may be eligible for WHIP. To participate in WHIP, you must own or have control of the land under consideration.

What Land is Not Eligible?

Most public land and land currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program or Wetlands Reserve Program are not eligible. Land subject to floodplain easement in the Emergency Watershed Program is not eligible.



NRCS State Office

800 W Evergreen Ave, Ste 100
Palmer, AK 99645

www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov

Anchorage
510 L St., Ste 280
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-271-2424

Bethel
311 Willow St, Bldg 3
PO Box 1869
Bethel, AK 99559-1869
907-543-7155

Cooper Center
HC 60 Box 52
Mile 93.3 Richardson Hwy
Copper Center, AK 99573
907-822-4484

Delta Junction
1420.5 Alaska Hwy
Jarvis Office Ctr
PO Box 547
Delta Junction, AK 99737
907-895-4241

Dillingham
134 First Ave W
PO Box 1110
Dillingham, AK 99576
907-842-3240

Fairbanks
590 University Ave, Ste B
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3641
907-479-3159
Ste 107A

Homer
4014 Lake St, Ste 201
PO Box 400
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-8177

Juneau
Senate Bldg
175 S Franklin St
Ste. #424
Juneau, AK 99801
907-586-7220

Kenai
110 Trading Bay
Ste 160
PO Box 800
Kenai, AK 99611
907-283-8732

Kodiak
518 Marine Way
Ste 206
Kodiak, AK 99615
907-486-5598

Mat-Su
1700 East Bogard Rd
Ste 203
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-373-6492

Nome
240 Front St
PO Box 1009
Nome, AK 99762
907-443-6096

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Alaska

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program



What is WHIP?

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private land. WHIP provides both technical assistance and cost sharing to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Timeline

A landowner may sign up for the WHIP program at any time after completing a wildlife habitat conservation plan.

The 2005 closing date for sign-up is May 27.

Applications can be submitted throughout the year, but those received after May 27 will be held until the next cut-off date.

How WHIP Works

Landowners agree to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat conservation plan. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to implement the wildlife habitat restoration practices.

Examples of WHIP Practices

Your local NRCS field office can provide extensive information about how WHIP might work on your land. Some conservation practices that are eligible for cost-share support include:

- Install in-stream structures to provide fish habitat.
- Install soil wraps and plantings to stabilize stream banks and provide rearing and escape cover for salmon fry.
- Planting trees and shrubs to enhance habitat for upland game bird species.
- Complete ATV trail hardening practices to prevent erosion and reduce habitat fragmentation.